

**CH-515**  
**Roby House**  
**Pomfret vic.**  
**Private**

**circa 1885**

This substantial Queen Anne Victorian dwelling features an asymmetrical plan, projecting 3-sided bays, and a prominent front porch. Built circa 1885, the house is of frame construction and stands on a 4-acre lot near the village of Pomfret.

The Roby House is among the most elaborate Queen Anne Victorian-style dwellings standing in the rural parts of Charles County. Built for a member of the locally prominent Roby family, the house occupies a portion of the family's lands known as "St. Matthews."

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-515

=====  
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance circa 1885  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates circa 1885  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation Undefined  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. CH-515

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1. Name of Property

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historic name Roby House

Common/other name \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Location

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street & number 7935 Marshall Corner Rd not for publication \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Pomfret vicinity X state Maryland code MD  
county Charles code 017 zip code 20675

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification

N/A

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4. National Park Service Certification

N/A

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

X private  
\_\_\_\_\_ public-local  
\_\_\_\_\_ public-State  
\_\_\_\_\_ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

X building(s)  
\_\_\_\_\_ district  
\_\_\_\_\_ site  
\_\_\_\_\_ structure  
\_\_\_\_\_ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing      Noncontributing

<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Listing \_\_\_\_\_

No X

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-515

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single dwelling

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7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne Victorian

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation solid: stretcher bond brick

roof side gable: metal shingles (modern)

walls wood frame: vinyl siding

other \_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-515

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8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

## =====

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Brown, Jack D., et al. *Charles County, Maryland, A History*. Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Land Records. Charles County Courthouse, La Plata, Maryland.

Klapthor, Margaret Brown. *The History of Charles County, Maryland*. La Plata, MD: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

## =====

## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property 4.15 acres

**Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)**

The property is designated as Parcel 136 on Map 22, Grid 10 on the Charles County Property Map.

**Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)**

The Roby House has been associated with Parcel 136, Map 22 since its construction circa 1885.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Kathryn Gettings Smith, Architectural Historian  
organization Charles County Planning Dept. date May 30, 1999  
street & number P.O. Box B telephone 301-645-0689  
city or town La Plata state MD zip code 20646

## =====

## 12. Property Owner

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name Patrick W. & Dianne C. Hunt  
street & number 7935 Marshall Corner Rd telephone 301-932-0244  
city or town Pomfret state MD zip code 20675

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MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-515

Section 7 Page 1

Roby House  
name of property  
Charles County, Maryland  
county and state

=====

This substantial Queen Anne Victorian dwelling features an asymmetrical plan, projecting 3-sided bays, and a prominent front porch. Built circa 1885, the house is of frame construction and stands on a 4-acre lot near the village of Pomfret.

The house stands on a level lot just east of the intersection of Marshall Corner Road and Pomfret Road. Approached via a circular driveway, the house is surrounded by several mature trees. A recent 3-bay garage stands just southeast of the dwelling.

The Roby House stands on a continuous brick foundation and rises to two stories in height. Consisting of a T-shaped structure with a 2-story, south wing, the house is characterized by its Victorian form and detailing. The cross-gable roof terminates in open eaves and is pierced by three corbeled cap chimneys. The two chimneys in the original portion of the house each contain two flues.

The most distinctive Victorian features of the house are the two full-height 3-sided projecting bays located at the front and north side gable ends. Both bays are pierced by single windows on each face at both the first and second stories. The second distinctly Victorian feature is the 3-bay, 1-story front porch supported on square posts with decorative scroll sawn brackets.

Adding to the Victorian flavor are the full-height first story windows set beneath the porch. These spacious openings contain elongated 1/1 wood sash topped by a 1-light transom. This arrangement is echoed in the design of the main entrance. The replacement panel-and-light wood door is also topped by a transom with 2-lights. The remaining window apertures hold replacement 1/1 sash.

The building's exterior materials have been significantly altered. The exterior has been reclad with vinyl siding and formed metal shingles have replaced the original roof cladding.

The building's form has only minor alterations, however. The 2-story frame wing that extends off the south side appears to date to the early 20th century. The only other major addition/alterations are at the rear of the house where the porch has been rebuilt and a second story bathroom addition made.

OUTBUILDING:

A single non-historic garage stands directly southeast of the

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-515

Section 7 Page 2

Roby House  
name of property  
Charles County, Maryland  
county and state

=====

dwelling. This frame side gable building is clad in vinyl siding and has three auto bay openings. The garage appears to date to the 1980s.



MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-515

Section 8 Page 1

Roby House  
name of property  
Charles County, Maryland  
county and state

=====

Built circa 1885, the Roby House is among the most elaborate Queen Anne Victorian-style dwellings standing in the rural parts of Charles County. Built for a member of the locally prominent Roby family, the house occupies a portion of the family's lands known as "St. Matthews."

T. Yates Roby and his wife, Margaret sold two lots subdivided from their ancestral property known as "St. Matthews" to their son, T. Yates Roby, Jr. in 1884. Located along the public road leading from Port Tobacco to Pomfret, the lots contained, in aggregate, thirteen acres and cost \$2500. This substantial sum may be accounted for by the tract's location within the commercial center of the village of Pomfret.

The village of Pomfret has its origins with Pomfret or St. Joseph's Church (see CH-68). While the church was in existence by the late 18th century, the village took longer to develop. By 1885, a thriving commercial center had sprung up just south of the church, near what is now the intersection of Pomfret and Marshall Corner Roads. In 1885, the village contained a combination store and post office, a school, a blacksmith and wheelwright shop, another store, and a saw and grist mill, along with the church.

The Roby House was likely built by T. Yates, Jr. shortly after he purchased his father's lots. Roby willed his father's lands and the house to his daughter, Ethel Roby Hayden, who devised the same to her cousin, Cyril Dyson Roby at her death in 1954. The present owners acquired the house, along with 12.6 acres of land in 1965.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-515

Roby House  
name of property  
Charles County, Maryland  
county and state

=====

**HISTORIC CONTEXT:**

**Geographic Organization:** Western Shore

**Chronological/Development Period (s):**

Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-  
1930

**Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):**

ARCHITECTURE

**RESOURCE TYPE(S)**

**Category:** Building

**Historic Environment:** Rural

**Historic Function (s):** DOMESTIC/Single dwelling

**Known Design Source:** Unknown

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-515

Roby House  
name of property  
Charles County, Maryland  
county and state

=====

**Chain of Title:**

December 13, 1884: T. Yates Roby & Margaret R. Roby  
(wife) to T. Yates Roby Jr.  
\$2500  
2 Lots: ✕Part of St. Matthew✕ along  
road from Port Tobacco to Pomfret  
Church  
1 Lot- 10 Acres 24 perches  
2 Lot- 3 Acres  
Charles County Land Records  
Liber BGS 7 Folio 586

Date unknown: Will of T. Yates Roby Jr.  
Devises land to Ethel Roby Hayden as  
next of kin & heir of T. Yates Roby,  
Jr.

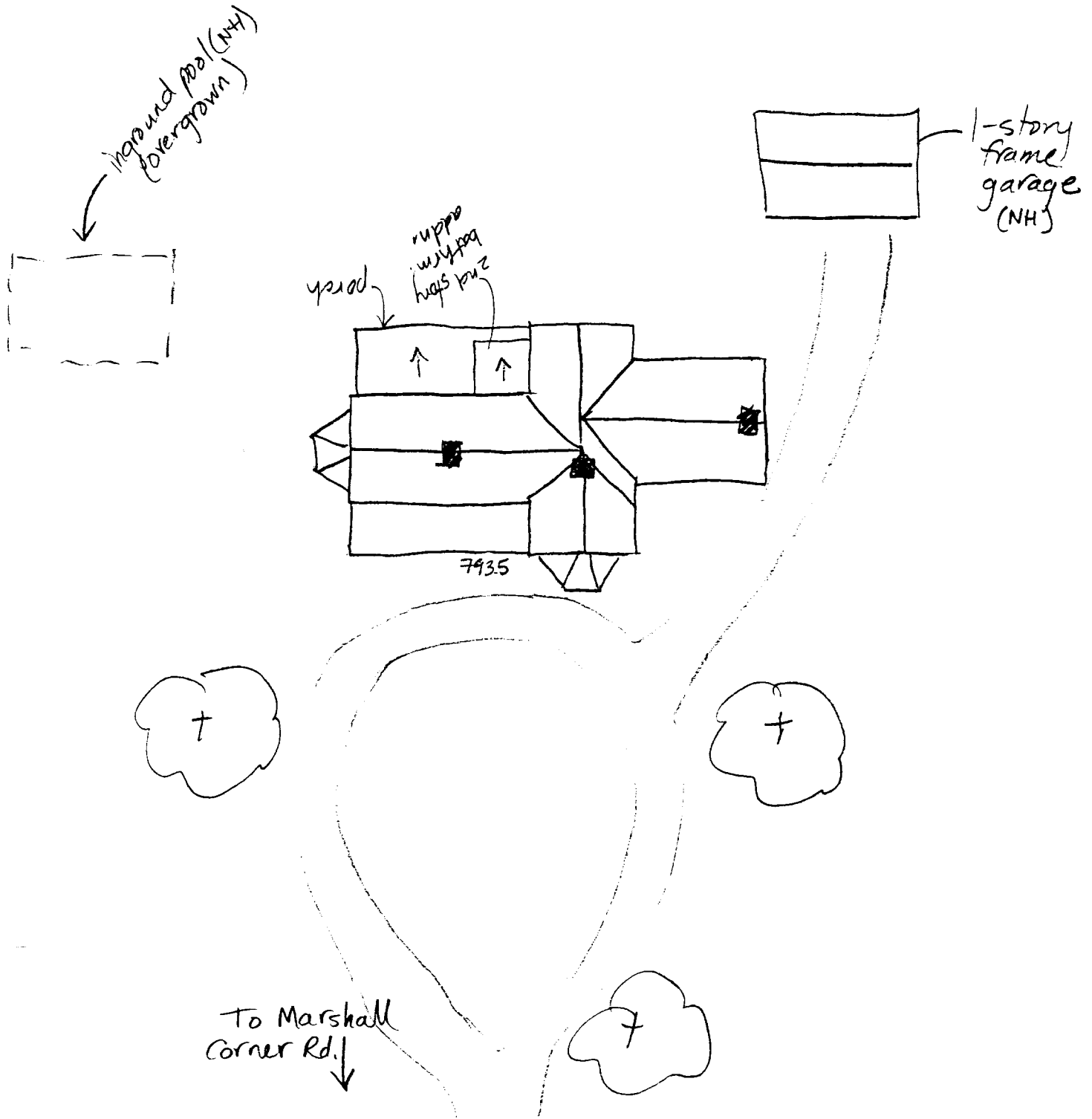
August 23, 1954: Will of Ethel Roby Hayden to (her  
cousin) Cyril Dyson Roby  
Charles County Register of Wills  
Liber ERP 24 Folio 363

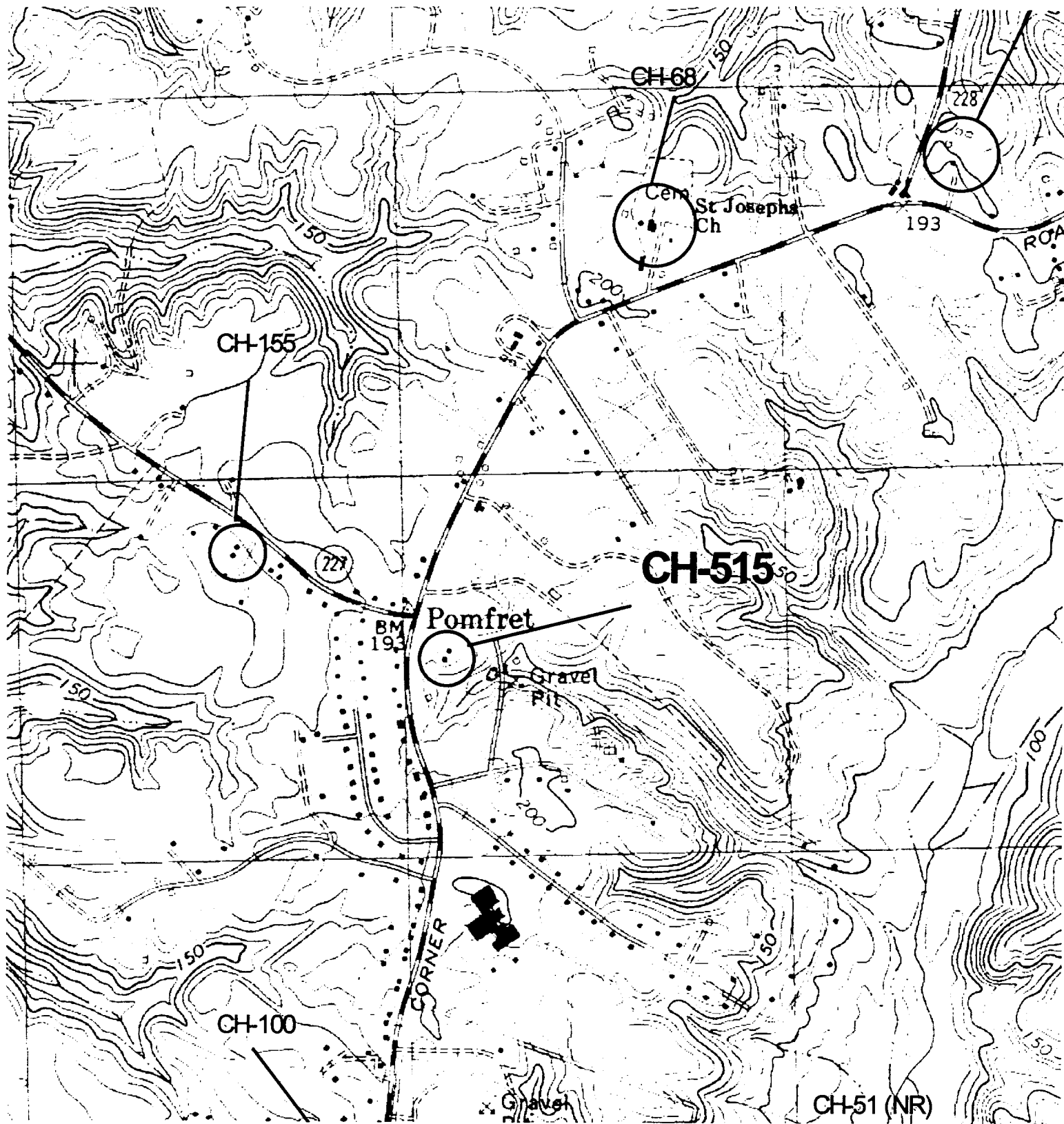
June 29, 1965: Cyril Dyson & Virginia Roby to  
Patrick W. & Diane C. Hunt  
12.5622 acres  
Charles County Land Records  
Liber 175 Folio 708

RESOURCE  
SKETCH  
MAP  
3/69

ROBY HOUSE  
CHARLES COUNTY, MD  
7935 Marshall's Corner Rd.  
Pomfret Vic.

CH-515





Roby House  
Charles County, MD

PORT TOBACCO, MD QUAD

CH-515



CH- 515

ROBY HOUSE  
CHARLES COUNTY, MD  
K.G. SMITH

3/99  
MARYLAND SHPO  
LOOKING SE  
1 OF 3





CH-515  
ROBY HOUSE  
CHARLES COUNTY, MD  
K.G. SMITH

3/99  
MARYLAND SHPO  
LOOKING NE  
2 OF 3



CH-515

ROBY HOUSE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

3/99

MARYLAND SHPO

LOOKING SW

3 OF 3